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DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY

CENTRE FOR  
RESEARCH IN  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND EDUCATION

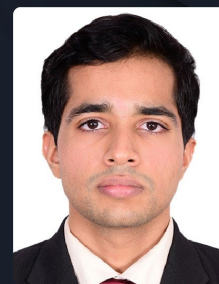
# THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

NEWSLETTER FROM THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH  
IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3, JULY 2024



## EDITOR'S DESK



The 2024 General Elections in India saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) return to power in the Lok Sabha for the third consecutive time. However, as the BJP fell short of the majority for the first time since 2014, it had to turn to its allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to acquire the 272 seats in order to stake claim to form the next government. Along with the Congress party, nearly 26 other opposition parties came together as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and performed much better than what the exit polls predicted.

When all of the 640 million votes cast in the six-week long elections were counted, the BJP, along with NDA emerged victorious, despite a sharp reduction in its seat tally compared with its performance in the 2019 general elections. The biggest loss for the party was the seat of Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh, where just recently the 'Ram Mandir' had been inaugurated with much fan-fare. Our current issue analyses this loss. Also, despite this election being fought just after the approval of the Women's Reservation Bill, the number of women Members of Parliament elected in 2024 fell by 0.7 percentage points compared to 2019. The Gender column here also looks deeper into the women in higher politics.

On the global stage, the 2024 European Parliamentary elections witnessed a resurgence of right-wing power across Europe, reflecting the complex dynamics of electing representatives at both transnational and regional levels. We address the significance of these elections that extends beyond national borders, highlighting the intricate political landscape of the European Union.

Moving away from electoral politics, we focus on the pertinent issue of climate change. It is painfully obvious that India has to prioritise climate concerns along with economic growth and development. The country needs an inclusive policy involving regional, state, national and international efforts which are imperative not only for India, but for others as well, to build a sustainable future.

For the committed bibliophile, our book reviews feature insightful critiques of various publications that explore social science themes. Reviews of *The Mahatma* and *the Ism* by E.M.S. Namboodiripad and *Fatal Accidents of Birth: Stories of Oppression and Struggle* by Harsh Mander bring about a pertinent interplay of history as well as violence and discrimination.

Covering the period of February to June 2024, TSSP also provides a recap of significant events and activities organised by the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE). Notable highlights include events such as the Panel Discussion on *The Gendered Impact of War in Gaza*, *Right to Vote Campaign*, and the Student Seminar commemorating World Refugee Day.

As we present this latest edition of TSSP, we are left marvelling at what has been dubbed the year of democracy, where over half the world's population is casting its vote over several months. As billions around the globe practiced their franchise, we are constantly reminded that elections are won and lost on the basis of a number of social, economic, personal, and political issues that constantly weave and shift. In this newsletter, we hope that we gave a small taste of this along with the multitude of issues that shape our world. It is our wish that this newsletter inspires meaningful discussions and encourages our readers to engage deeply with the topics presented.

Welcome to the latest issue of TSSP. Please do send us your comments and feedback,

— **Priyanka, Amrita, Sneha and Gautam**  
Editors, TSSP